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ATSDR Groundwater Investigation Sam Winer Motors Springfield Township, Ohio

What is ATSDR?

ATSDR is the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, a federal public health agency that deals with human health issues related to hazardous chemicals in the environment. ATSDR is not a regulatory agency and does not make or enforce laws.

The agency conducts public health assessments at sites where there are concerns about health issues that may be related to hazardous chemical spills or releases. The public health assessment evaluates the conditions of exposure at the site and data about chemicals detected in the air, water, or soil at the site and surrounding area. ATSDR then evaluates the information to determine whether there is a threat to the health of people in the vicinity.

If chemicals are detected at levels of public health concern at the site, ATSDR provides people in the area with information on how they can limit their exposure to the chemicals. ATSDR also makes recommendations to health and environmental agencies. These recommendations may be for further sampling of air, water, or soil in the community or for immediate actions for reducing or preventing further exposure. To find out more about ATSDR, visit the ATSDR web page at www.atsdr.cdc.gov.

Why did ATSDR get involved in Springfield Township?

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) requested that ATSDR analyze all available groundwater data for residences surrounding the Sam Winer Motors site, and determine whether or not the data

indicate contamination at levels of health concern.

What were the results of the ATSDR public health consultation for groundwater?

Between 1993 and 2002 samples were collected on 6 different occasions in the community surrounding the Sam Winer Motors salvage yards. The samples were collected and analyzed by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) and the USEPA.

Based on all available data, ATSDR has made the following observations:

- Water: Groundwater in this community poses *no health hazard to area residents*. Data do not indicate threatening levels of contaminants in residential well water.
- Soils: According to available environmental data, on-site subsurface soils could potentially pose a threat to human health if it were possible for people to be exposed to soils 3-11 feet below ground surface. Because this is highly unlikely, on-site soils *do not pose a threat to human health*.

ATSDR has determined that levels of contaminants detected in residential wells ***do not pose a health hazard*** for the following reasons:

- With the exception of phthalates, no other *on-site* contaminant has been detected in residential drinking water, including those volatile organic compounds detected at fairly high levels in onsite subsurface soils.
- In all data reviewed, the detection of phthalates in wells occurred when the

laboratory method blank was contaminated with phthalates; it did not occur when no phthalates were detected in the method blank. This suggests that laboratory contamination of the method blank could be the source of the phthalates detected in wells. The only exception was when a homeowner's well pump burned out during sampling; in that case the pump burnout is very likely the source of phthalates in the sample.

- Even if residents were exposed to the levels of phthalates detected in these samples, the exposure would be unlikely to pose a health threat. The levels that were detected are far below those that have been observed to cause health problems in scientific studies.

What did ATSDR recommend to protect the public's health?

ATSDR made two recommendations to ensure that the health of residents is protected in the future. These include:

Groundwater: Ohio EPA or the USEPA should continue to intermittently (approximately every 2 years) monitor the on-site wells to insure migration of on-site contaminants into groundwater is not occurring.

Physical hazards: The Sam Winer Motors Corporation should fence portions of its salvage yards that are currently unfenced to prevent potential injury to children and trespassers.

What's next?

ATSDR, USEPA, and the Ohio EPA will host a public availability session in the fall to address questions and concerns residents may have regarding all sampling that has been conducted from 1993-2002. At that time, representatives from ATSDR will also be present to discuss the findings of the public health consultation. Look for a newsletter announcing the date and time in your mailbox or local newspaper!

You may read the Sam Winer Motors Health Consultation at two local libraries, located at:

Mogadore Public Library
144 S. Cleveland Avenue
Mogadore, Ohio 44620
(330) 784-2019

Ellet Public Library
2470 E. Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44312
(330) 628-9228

ATSDR Contacts

For additional information, you may contact the following ATSDR staff members:

Michelle Colledge, Health Assessor, at
1-888-42ATSDR (toll-free) or 312-886-0840.

Mark Johnson, Toxicologist, at **1-888-42ATSDR**
(toll free) or 312-886-0840.